

SENATE BILL REPORT

SCR 8401

As Reported by Senate Committee On:
Higher Education, February 2, 2017

Brief Description: Approving the 2016 state comprehensive plan for workforce training and education.

Sponsors: Senators Bailey, Rolfes, Hasegawa, Chase, Rivers, Zeiger, Keiser, Saldaña and Kuderer; by request of Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Higher Education: 1/26/17, 2/02/17 [DP].

Brief Summary of Bill

- Approving the 2016 State Comprehensive Plan for workforce training and education.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Majority Report: Do pass.

Signed by Senators Wilson, Chair; Bailey, Vice Chair; Palumbo, Ranking Minority Member; Baumgartner and Frockt.

Staff: Evan Klein (786-7483)

Background: The Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA) was a federal law that provided workforce investment activities, through statewide and local workforce investment systems, that sought to increase the employment, retention and earnings of participants and increase occupational skill attainment by participants.

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) was enacted in July of 2014. WIOA is designed to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market. WIOA replaces WIA and retains and amends the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, the Wagner-Peyser Act and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Summary of Bill: The Washington State Senate and House of Representatives approve the 2016 State Comprehensive Plan for workforce training and education.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: The business and labor communities led the planning process. The staff of the workforce board has put in hard work to develop this plan. This plan meets the needs of consumers by reforming the way the public sector interacts with business and industry. The plan recognizes that the workforce system can engage business in a more streamlined manner. The plan ensures that skills gaps are filled. The TAP plan aligns with the student achievement council's roadmap.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Senator Barbara Bailey, Prime Sponsor; Perry England, Workforce Board Chair; Amy Anderson, Association of Washington Business; Maddy Thompson, Washington Student Achievement Council; Jeff Johnson, Washington State Labor Council.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: No one.